

1 3.12 NOISE

NOISE – Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2 3.12.1 Environmental Setting

3 The Project area is located 2 miles east-northeast of Niland, Imperial County, in the
 4 central basin of the Colorado Desert. Niland is a small community on the southeast side
 5 of the Salton Sea, approximately 80 miles southeast of Palm Springs and 19 miles north
 6 of Brawley. North by northeast is the active Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range.
 7 This is an active weapons range using various warfare methods. The methods include
 8 planes, helicopters and ground vehicles. Military activities occur at all hours of the day
 9 and are anticipated to continue after the sale of the School Lands parcels is completed.

10 3.12.2 Regulatory Setting

11 No Federal laws or regulations pertain to this issue area. State laws and regulations
 12 pertaining to this issue area and relevant to the Project are identified in Table 3.12-1.

1 **Table 3.12-1. Laws, Regulations, and Policies (Noise)**

CA	<p>State regulations for limiting population exposure to physically and/or psychologically significant noise levels include established guidelines and ordinances for roadway and aviation noise under California Department of Transportation as well as the now defunct California Office of Noise Control. The California Office of Noise Control land use compatibility guidelines provided the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An exterior noise level of 60 to 65 dBA Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) is considered "normally acceptable" for residences. • A noise level of 70 dBA CNEL is considered to be "conditionally acceptable" (i.e., the upper limit of "normally acceptable" noise levels for sensitive uses such as schools, libraries, hospitals, nursing homes, churches, parks, offices, and commercial/professional businesses). • A noise level of greater than 75 dBA CNEL is considered "clearly unacceptable" for residences.
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2 At the local level, the Land Use Ordinance for Imperial County, Title 9, is to provide
3 comprehensive land use regulations for all unincorporated areas. These regulations are
4 adopted to promote and protect the public health, safety, and general welfare through
5 the orderly regulation of land uses throughout the unincorporated areas of the County.
6 The Land Use Ordinances for noise should not be affected by the proposed sale of
7 School Lands and the proposed sale does not include any construction or modification
8 of existing conditions that could increase the potential of increased noise.

9 Also included in the Imperial County General Plan is the Noise Element. Government
10 Code section 65302, subdivision (f), specifies the content of the Noise Element, which
11 includes the requirement to analyze, to the extent practicable, the current and projected
12 noise levels. The Noise Element examines noise sources and provides information to
13 be used in setting land use policies to protect noise sensitive land uses and for
14 developing and enforcing a local noise ordinance. The Noise Element of the Imperial
15 County General Plan provides a program for incorporating noise issues into the land
16 use planning process, with a goal of minimizing adverse noise impacts to receptors
17 which are sensitive to noise.

18 **3.12.3 Impact Analysis**

19 ***a) Result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of***
20 ***standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable***
21 ***standards of other agencies?***

22 ***b) Result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne***
23 ***vibration or ground-borne noise levels?***

24 ***c) Result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the***
25 ***project vicinity above levels existing without the project?***

26 ***d) Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels***
27 ***in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?***

No Impact. The proposed sale of School Lands does not include any construction or modification of existing conditions that could result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies; would not result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels; would not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project; and, would not result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project. Current military training activities on adjacent lands will continue to be an on-going generator of noise. The proposed land sale will not have any changes to the current baseline conditions on the identified parcels.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

f) For a Project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The project is not located within an airport land use plan area, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, or within the vicinity of a private airstrip that would expose people to excessive noise levels.

3.12.4 Summary

Based upon the above considerations, no noise impacts are expected to occur as a result of the proposed sale of School Lands. The proposed purchasers of the School Lands parcels plan to continue the existing uses (current baseline conditions) associated with the respective parcels. The Project does not include any construction or ground-disturbing activities. Any other uses and potential impacts are too speculative for evaluation.